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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03445 270903Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /070 W
----------270909Z 008816 /20
O 270836Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3515
INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3445

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR GB KN KS
SUBJ: PRESIDENT BONGO TO VISIT PYONGYANG

REF: LIBREVILLE 386 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED PRESIDENT BONGO'S PLANNED TRIP TO PYONGYANG BEGINNING MAY 2 WITH MOFA UN DIVISION CHIEF YI CHONG-PIN APRIL 27, EMPHASIZING DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING OVER-REACTION TO BONGO'S PLANS. AFTER REVIEWING DAMAGE WHICH NORTH KOREA HAD SUFFERED AS CONSEQUENCE OF EXCESSIVE EFFORT TO DERAIL BONGO'S TRIP TO SEOUL TWO YEARS AGO, YI GOT THE MESSAGE AND AGREED THAT PRESENT COURSE OF ACTION FOR ROKG APPEARED TO BE TO KEEP ROK RELATIONS WITH GABON ON AN EVEN KEEL AND NOT TRY TO APPLY PRESSURE WHICH MIGHT BE MIS-INTERPRETED AS INTERFERENCE IN GABON AFFAIRS.

2. EMBOFF ALSO DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH WEST AFRICA DIVISION CHIEF HYUN HI KANG WHO SAID ROK EMBASSY LIBREVILLE HAD RECOMMENDED THAT ROK PRESIDENT PARK EXTEND INVITATION TO BONGO TO VISIT SEOUL. HYUN SAID MOFA WAS PRESENTLY INCLINED TO BELIEVE THIS NOT OPPORTUNE TIME TO EXTEND SUCH AN INVITATION, CITING PARALLEL
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BETWEEN PRESENT SITUATION AND THAT IN 1975 WHEN BONGO REACTED NEGATIVELY TO NORTH KOREAN PRESSURE. HYUN SAID MOFA HAD, HOWEVER, SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ROK AMBASSADOR KIM TO SEE BONGO BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT HE WILL NOT CHANGE HIS POSITION ON KOREA AS RESULT OF TRIP.

3. COMMENT: ROKG APPEARS TO BE IN FULL SYMPATHY WITH

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LOW KEY APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PFOR, GB, KN, KS
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